

GOVDOC

BRA

4824

~~Property of~~  
~~BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY~~  
~~Library~~

GOVERNMENT CENTER

Govt. Center  
B 65 R  
GoB







Property Of  
**BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Library

**Government Center** is a complex of buildings, plazas and pedestrian malls that has revitalized the downtown core of Boston. Carried out under a master plan given final form by the architectural firm of I. M. Pei and Partners in 1961, Government Center has tried to respect the historic character of Old Boston while expressing the energy and growth of the New Boston.

A Federally-aided urban renewal project covering 60 acres in the heart of Boston, Government Center includes city, state and Federal office facilities as well as private office buildings. The new Boston City Hall, set in a nine-acre plaza, is the Center's major focus.

It was one of the first urban renewal projects undertaken by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA), with assistance from the Government Center Commission. Approaching completion under the leadership of Mayor Kevin H. White, it will ultimately contain nearly 30 buildings worth \$260 million.

Government Center was conceived in 1954 when it became apparent that the city, state and Federal governments were contemplating new construction in Boston. The BRA believed that major government construction would encourage massive private investment in the same area and this has proved to be the case.

The site chosen for this large scale government and private construction was Scollay Square — a rundown entertainment and retail district. It was considered an ideal location for development partly because of the area's desperate need for physical improvement, but also because of its accessibility and proximity to established retail and office centers in Boston.

Government Center is close to the shopping district concentrated along Washington Street. It is near Boston's business and financial center. It is next to Beacon Hill, with its residential area, the State House, the Suffolk County Court House, and to the residential West End urban renewal area. Served by three subway lines, it is also adjacent to the downtown expressway, the Central Artery. Encompassed within Government Center are several historic buildings — the Old State House, Faneuil Hall and the Sears Crescent.

Government Center is best explored on foot, through its many malls, shops, pedestrian passages and plazas. One of its aims is to restore this part of the city, which dates back to Colonial times, to the pedestrian scale it had originally.

*The following are buildings that comprise Government Center. A key at the back of the booklet indicates their location in the Center.*





**Boston's New City Hall** is the result of an architectural competition in 1962 won by the firm of Kallmann, McKinnell and Knowles. Built at an estimated cost of \$27 million (financed by municipal bonds issued by the Government Center Commission), it encloses 318,000 square feet of office space.

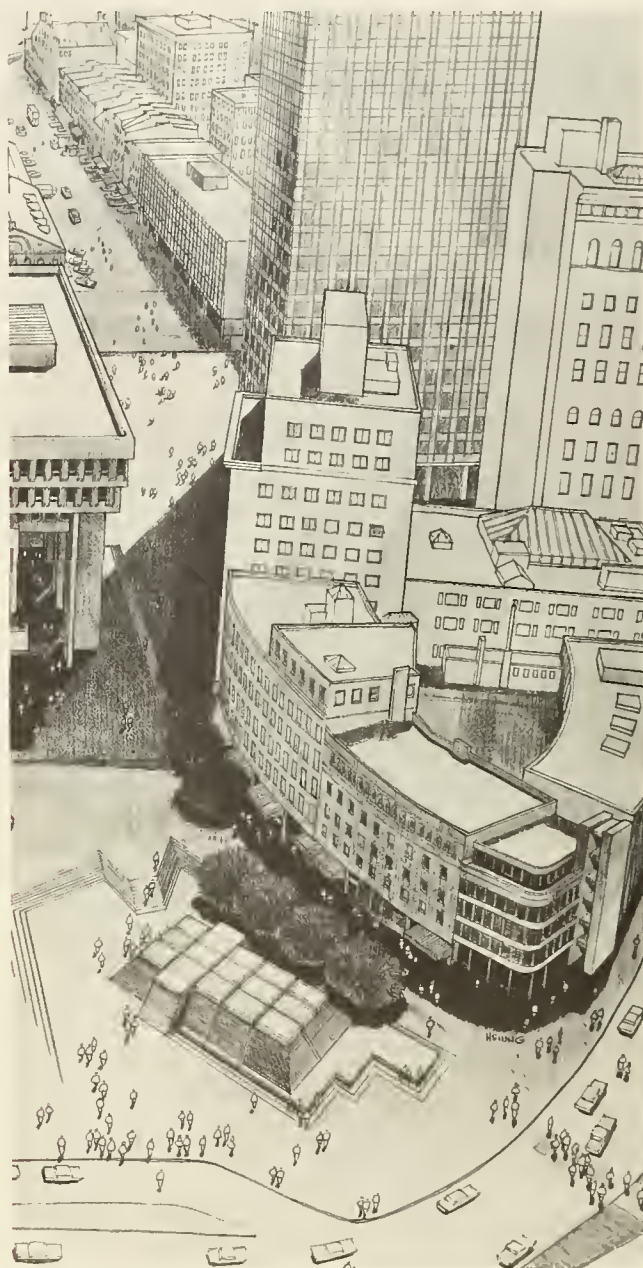
The City Hall houses three separate functions of city government that are reflected in the design and structure of the building. The lower floors, built into the side of Beacon Hill, contain the offices most often visited by the public and most easily reached. The upper four floors, in the "cap", house city departments requiring flexible office space and visited less often by the public. Suspended between these two sections are the Mayor's office and the City Council Chambers, visible to all and directly accessible by a large brick stairway.

Adjacent to the City Hall is the nine-acre City Hall Square. Its red brick continues through the City Hall, as an extension of Beacon Hill, and down to Dock Square and Faneuil Hall.

**The Sears Block and Sears Crescent** are reminders of Boston's past, in scale, location and building materials. Built in the early 19th century, they soon became the nucleus of Boston's book center. The area attracted writers, artists and poets, Hawthorne and Emerson among them. The Sears Crescent housed "The Christian Freeman", an abolitionist journal, in the mid-1800's.

The buildings are now being renovated. The granite Sears Block, the corner building, is the home of the 294-gallon "Steaming Kettle", and the brick Sears Crescent will contain shops and offices when completed.

**BOSTON CITY HALL**  
*Kallmann, McKinnell & Knowles, architects*



**SEARS BLOCK**  
Rehabilitation design by F. A. Stahl & Associates  
**SEARS CRESCENT**  
Rehabilitation design by Stull Associates

**The John F. Kennedy Federal Office Building** consists of a 26-story tower and a 4-story lower section. The tower houses Federal agencies serving the New England region. District offices, more often visited by area residents, are in the low building along with an employees' cafeteria. A glass bridge links the two and contains a mural by Robert Motherwell. The tower is split, with elevators in the middle, to make the building less massive and provide direct daylight to almost all offices.

**State Office Building.** Located near the State House on Beacon Hill, the 22-story State Office Building houses 33 state agencies. Its underground garage can accommodate 330 cars. It was completed in 1966. Although not in the Government Center Urban Renewal area, it is an important neighbor and an exam-

ple of Government Center's influence on its surroundings.

**Center Plaza Office Building.** One, Two and Three Center Plaza, an 8-story, 875-foot-long private office building, is one of the longest office facilities in the United States. The ground-floor arcade contains small shops and there is parking for 500 cars in the lower level of the building. Its curved shape follows the contours of the foot of Beacon Hill and mirrors the neighboring historic Sears Crescent. The brick-and-concrete exterior is reminiscent of traditional Boston architecture. On the inside curve of the building is Pemberton Square. A fashionable residential area in the 19th century, it has been redesigned by Kallmann and McKinnell as an automobile and pedestrian way.



**CENTER PLAZA OFFICE BUILDING**  
Welton Becket & Associates, architects



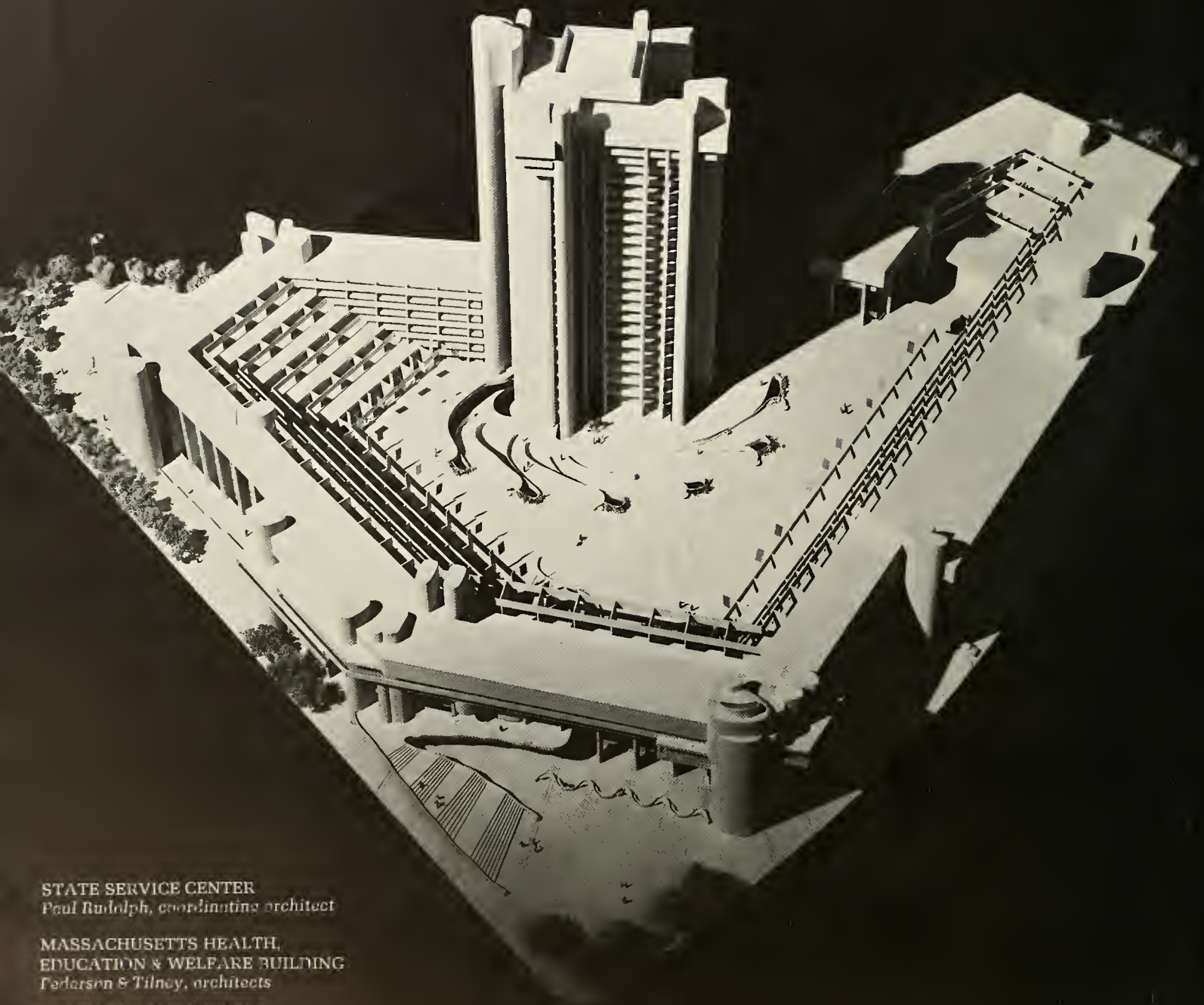
**\* STATE OFFICE BUILDING**  
Emery Roth & Associates, architects

\* Outside the Government Center Urban Renewal Area



A black and white photograph showing a courtyard view of the John F. Kennedy Federal Office Building. The building features a prominent grid of windows and a series of cantilevered balconies on the left side. A bare tree stands in the foreground on the right, and a ramp is visible in the lower right corner. The sky is overcast.

JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING  
*The Architects Collaborative and  
Samuel Glaser Associates, architects*



**STATE SERVICE CENTER**  
*Paul Rudolph, coordinating architect*

**MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH,  
EDUCATION & WELFARE BUILDING**  
*Feddersen & Tilney, architects*

**MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**  
*Desmond & Lord, architects*

**DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY**  
*Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott, architects*



**The State Service Center**, now under construction, will be completed in 1972. It will house the State Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Division of Employment Security, and the State Mental Health Center in an eight-acre complex built around a large plaza. The lower sections will be 5 stories, with a 30-story tower. Paul Rudolph, the coordinating architect, set the design criteria followed by the three participating architectural firms.

**The Old State House**, built in 1712-13, was the seat of Boston's colonial government, and the symbols of British rule, the lion and unicorn, still remain on the facade. It served as



\* OLD STATE HOUSE

the State House for Massachusetts after the Revolution until the completion of Charles Bulfinch's "new" State House on Beacon Hill in 1798. The Old State House now contains a museum and a subway station.

#### **New England Merchants National Bank.**

The 40-story New England Merchants National Bank contains the bank's facilities and leased office space as well. Its architects used pink granite on the outside of the building to serve as a link between Boston's traditional red brick architecture and the modern architecture of Government Center. The building marks a major entrance to the Center at the foot of Washington Street.



NEW ENGLAND MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK  
*Edward Larrabee Barnes, architect*

**Faneuil Hall** was built in 1740-42 as a market and assembly hall and is still used for these purposes. Burned and rebuilt in the mid-18th century, it was enlarged in 1806 by Charles Bulfinch. The gold grasshopper weathervane on its lantern tower was the symbol of Boston for arriving clipper ships in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In front of Faneuil Hall is Quincy Market, designed by Alexander Parris. Built in 1824-26, the area was Boston's first urban renewal project and has served as commercial space for 150 years. Mayor Kevin H. White has proposed a \$10 million renovation program for the area. Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market are in the Waterfront Urban Renewal Area.



\* FANEUIL HALL





WNAC-TV (left) *Fulmer & Bowers, architects*  
 30 HAWKINS STREET (1847) (right)  
 To be renovated



\* FIRST HARRISON GRAY OTIS HOUSE (1796-97)  
*Charles Bulfinch, architect* Now the offices of the Society  
 for the Preservation of New England Antiquities



\* OLD WEST CHURCH (1809)  
*Asher Benjamin, architect*



\* ROW HOUSE REHABILITATION  
 Rehabilitation design by S. J. Kessler & Sons

\* Outside the Government Center Urban Renewal Area



CITY BANK AND TRUST COMPANY  
*F. A. Stahl & Associates, architects*



U. S. POST OFFICE  
*Strickland, Brigham & Eldredge, architects*



ONE WASHINGTON MALL  
*Eduardo Catalano, architect*



BOSTON PRESS CLUB  
*Halasz & Halasz, architects*  
*Marvin E. Goody & John M. Clancy, Inc., associate architects*





AMES BUILDING (1892)  
Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, architects



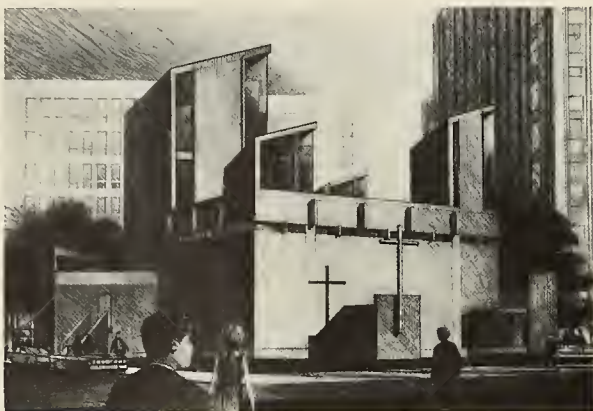
GOVERNMENT CENTER PARKING GARAGE AND BUS TERMINAL  
Kallmann & McKinnell and Samuel Glaser Associates, architects



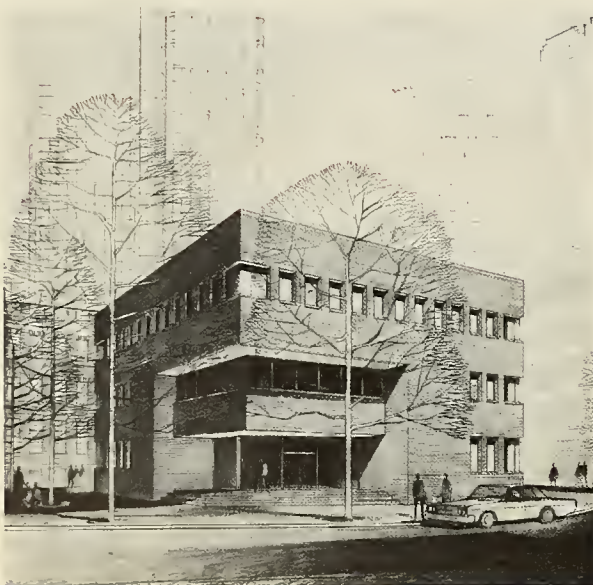
\* BOSTON COMPANY BUILDING  
Pietro Belluschi, architect



PRECINCT 1 POLICE STATION  
Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott, architects



ST. BOTOLPH'S CHAPEL  
Sert, Jackson & Associates, architects



JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE CENTER  
Marvin E. Goody & John M. Clancy, Inc., architects

PHOTOGRAPHY — George Zimberg

PHOTOGRAPH — State Service Center — Ezra Stoller

AERIAL PHOTO — Aerial Photos of New England

- 1/Ames Building
- 2/Boston City Hall
- 3/Boston Company Building\*
- 4/Boston Press Club
- 5/Boston Public Welfare Building
- 6/Bulfinch Building
- 7/Center Plaza Office Building
- 8/City Bank and Trust Company
- 9/City Hall Square
- 10/Dock Square\*
- 11/Edison Substation
- 12/Faneuil Hall\*
- 13/First Harrison Gray Otis House\*
- 14/Government Center Parking Garage and Bus Terminal
- 15/Jewish Family and Children's Service Center
- 16/John F. Kennedy Federal Office Building
- 17/New England Merchants National Bank Building
- 18/New England Telephone Company
- 19/Old State House\*
- 20/Old West Church\*
- 21/One Washington Mall
- 22/Pemberton Square
- 23/Precinct 1 Police Station
- 24/Proposed Motel and Office Development
- 25/Quincy Market\*
- 26/Row House Rehabilitation\*
- 27/St. Botolph's Chapel
- 28/Sears Block
- 29/Sears Crescent
- 30/State Office Building\*
- 31/State Service Center
- 32/Suffolk County Court House\*
- 33/30 Hawkins Street
- 34/U. S. Post Office
- 35/Veterans Administration Building
- 36/WNAC-TV

\* Outside the Government Center Urban Renewal Area



BOSTON  
REDEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Lally, Chairman  
Melvin J. Massucco, Vice Chairman  
James G. Colbert, Treasurer  
George P. Condakes, Assistant Treasurer  
Patrick Bocanfuso, Member  
Hale Champion, Director



